(b) whether any experimental scheme has been launched by Government directly or through non-Governmental agencies in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY ON NONCONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The Government has taken up number of demonstration projects on utilisation of solar energy for space heating application in Ladakh region. Large number of solar huts have been provided to the Indo-Tibetian Boarder Police Force in Leh and other areas of Ladakh. Three community buildings namely, a school, a hospital and a mess have been constructed using both passive and active solar heating systems. Couple of green houses have also been constructed for extending the cultivation periods for vegetables, flowers etc. All these projects have been taken to demonstrate the technologies to the local people so that they can adopt these. Besides these projects, some of the non-Governmental organisations and voluntary agencies are also active in demonstrating similar technologies in this region.

Commercial Exploitation of Solar Engergy

2765. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are drawing a comprehensive plan to commercially exploit solar energy on large scale for power generation in this country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed plan;

(c) whether the assistance of any foreign firm/Government has been sought for the task;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the plan envisaged during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTRER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (e) The Eighth Plan envisages programmes for extensive use of renewable energy systems for various applications including for power generation. Of the two routes for power generation from solar energy, viz., solar photovoltaics and solar thermal, it is proposed to instal 3 MW of photovoltaic devices in the Eighth Plan period. The devices include water pumping system, street lighting, domestic lighting, community television and village level power plants. Photovoltaic sytems are already being used in the country on a commercial basis for a variety of other applications such as telecommunications, railway signalling power for off-shore platforms, cathodic protection, microwave repeater stations and TV transmission.

Regarding solar thermal power generation, efforts are underway to locate the sources of technology and assistance for a megawatt scale project to serve R&D and demonstration purposes.

गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों की लोकप्रियता

2766. **मौलाना ओबैदुल्ला खान आजमी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों को लोकप्रिय बनाने में कोई विशेष सफलता नहीं मिली है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जिला और खंड स्तरों पर कर्मचारी इस कार्य में पर्याप्त रुचि नहीं लेते है; और